

FirstSteps for Planting a Missional Church

Coaching Guide #10

Choosing a Worship Location

Church planters need to be like realtors when it comes to facilities in their city. They need to be aware of all the available space, the capacity, the costs and the decision makers related to those spaces; by this they are protecting the church's vision and future. Unless you are going to be a house church you will need a public gathering point for your weekly services. In having a thorough knowledge of your city and relationships with key city officials you can determine the key decision points and time frame on when you will need to secure your own permanent facility.

Checklist

- All meeting options have been uncovered.
- Pro's and con's of each location has been weighed.
- Relationships with all decision makers has been established.
- Meeting space options have been discussed and reviewed by coach.
- Official request letter has been drafted and follow-up appointment has been set.

Reflective Questions

- Is the location easily accessed?
- Are there places to put up multiple signs?
- Is the location knowable to your target group?
- Is there ample parking?
- Is there an attractive entrance?
- Is there an attractive and comfortable gathering area?
- Is there adequate space for worship?
- Will it seat a minimum of 200-300?
- How is the lighting & acoustics?
- Is it attractive to your target audience?
- Are there enough chairs to use?
- Can this space be decorated?
- Is there a clean, safe & attractive children's area?
 - For Nursery?
 - For Toddlers?
 - For 1st & 2nd grade?
 - For 3rd & 4th grade?
 - For 5th & 6th grade?
 - For 7th & 8th grade?
- Is storage available?
- Is there an alternative meeting space available if you can't meet there?
- Are there places to hang internal signs?
- Is it available for multiple services?
- What type of leasing terms can you get? (minimum 1-2 years)
- Will this facility sustain your long term growth needs?

Conclusion:

One of the mistakes church planters make is when they let the rented facility drive the vision God gave them instead of finding a location that enhances their vision.